



A Century of Progress with Pride

While I realize the desire of the residents of the City of Berwyn is to not allow a transitional treatment facility in our City, I must point out some facts.

1. In a lawsuit filed against the City in 2008 (for not providing in its zoning code an acceptable zone for such a facility), the City Mayor and Council were ordered by a Federal Magistrate to find an acceptable location. The Council and I were unable to do so, thus forcing the case to trial.
2. On advice of our litigation attorney, we, as the City Council, were advised that constitutionally, we must provide an area in our zoning code for such a facility or face the Court's decision to allow the facility to locate where they wish.
3. The City Council has been fully advised in the proceedings and legal advice, and every city council member agreed on the area designated (which spans 5 different wards) in the proposed ordinance as a reluctant change in the zoning code.
4. A public hearing was legally conducted and no objections to the proposed zoning change were brought forward.

Now, some are expressing their disappointment and reservations regarding the proposed change when this reality has been facing the City for the last three years. The current lawsuit has forced us into a position that is not palatable to some of the residents. Yet, legally, we are faced with this difficult decision. It is not a decision that the Council wants to make, but we are forced to decide between amending the zoning code or face harsh penalties.

I respect everyone's opinion in this matter, except those who wish to once again stir up this pot for political reasons. We need to put this sad part of Berwyn history behind us and continue with the progress this City has experienced, regardless of the legal predicament we must now decide.

Thank you.

Robert J. Lovero
Mayor